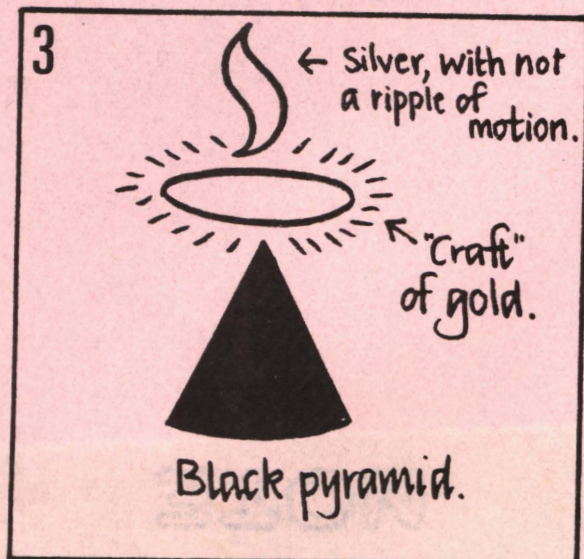
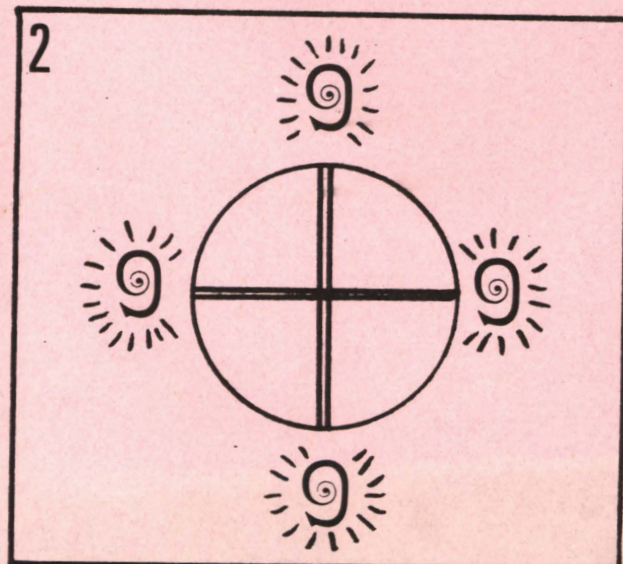
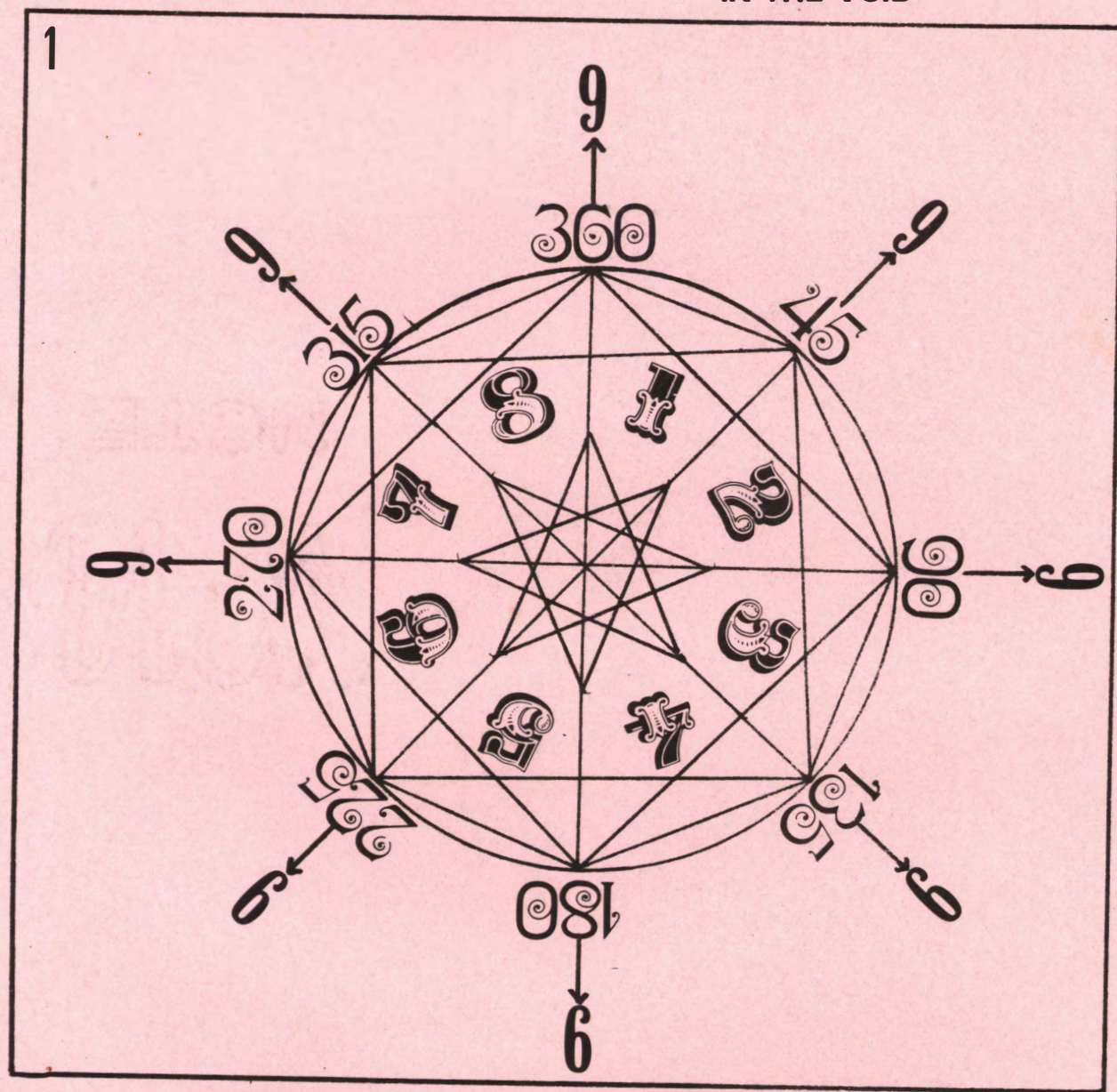


John Rimmer:
DOUBTS AT DIGAP

Alan Sharp:
'A RIPOSTE'

Arthur Shuttlewood:
'GREAT TRUTHS FORMING
IN THE VOID'



EDITORIAL

How to be Interviewed

Whenever there is an upsurge of UFO activity ufologists everywhere suddenly find themselves in demand for press and radio interviews. Some ufologists are cranks, of course, and their confidently expressed inanities reinforce the popular conviction that all ufologists must be equally batty, if not more so.

What of the rest of us, though? We sane, thoughtful people, unused to the glare of publicity, who become shy and inarticulate when confronted with microphone or reporter's notebook? How can we avoid making fools of ourselves when faced with, say, a radio commentator who is looking for a funny item with which to round off his feature programme? There is only one way. We must try to think of all the trick questions we may be asked and prepare ourselves in advance. A resulting interview may then go something like this:

INTERVIEWER: Tell me, Mr -----, why do you believe in flying saucers?

(This, of course, is the "When did you stop beating your wife?" type of question: you must deal with it firmly.)

UFOLOGIST: I neither believe nor disbelieve in flying saucers. I merely find the subject to be extremely interesting and think that many UFO reports are worthy of unbiased investigation.

(The Interviewer is disappointed. No scope for hilarity there. However, he persists, probing for a weak spot.)

INTERVIEWER: But surely you must have some theory you are following up; you must believe something about them?

(Note the word "believe" being dragged in again. He wants you to say "I believe" If you say those words carelessly he is half-way to having you written off as just another nut.)

UFOLOGIST: There are a number of interesting theories and speculations concerning the real nature of the UFO phenomenon. The theory that flying saucers are spacecraft from other planets is attractive, although it has many weaknesses, as I'm sure you will agree. On the other hand the theory--strongly advocated by Dr Menzel --that all UFO reports can be explained in terms of misidentifications of natural and man-made phenomena, hoaxes, delusions, etcetera, does seem rather inadequate to deal with well-documented, multiple-witness cases of UFOs seen at close quarters. However, qualified psychologists and medical men have begun to take an increasing interest in such reports and their findings indicate that most of the witnesses are psychologically well within the range of what may be termed normality, and are thus not likely to be susceptible to delusions or hallucinations or to be the perpetrators of childish hoaxes.

(The foregoing should be delivered rapidly and confidently, in the Patrick Moore style. It will then carry conviction, even to those who haven't understood a word of it. Try it on your tape recorder and see.)

INTERVIEWER: Ah! Then perhaps the UFOs are psychic phenomena, like ghosts and poltergeists?

(Don't panic, you can easily deal with this one.)

UFOLOGIST: It is true that many ufologists are of the opinion that this is a line worth following up. However, we must realize that by combining the two highly controversial studies of parapsychology and ufology we are hardly likely to reach any generally acceptable conclusions in the foreseeable future.

The Interviewer may then ask you to discuss a particular sighting. If he does, choose a good, recent, local report and give the names of the witnesses. The Interviewer can hardly dismiss them as liars or lunatics; they may sue him if he does. In winding up the

interview, he may make a last effort to discredit you and achieve the desired chuckles from his listeners. He may ask:-

INTERVIEWER: Some people say that the earth is hollow and that the flying saucers come from the inside through holes in the poles. Now, what do you think of that?
(Easy. Just say:)

UFOLOGIST: Well, look, if it's crackpots you want to interview I can give you some names and addresses.

INTERVIEWER: Er, well, er, Mr -----, thank you.

Now that you've got the general idea I'm sure you will be able to develop it further for yourselves and be prepared for all contingencies. Some of the old stagers amongst us are not expecting the next major flap until sometime in 1972. If they are right you have ample time to make yourselves word perfect and I look forward to hearing and reading of your triumphant encounters with the mass media.

L E T T E R T O T H E E D I T O R

From Mr PETER ROGERSON

Dear Mr Harney,

MUFOB continues to explore new perspectives of ufology which have been ignored by the old-time ufological establishment. John Rimmer's articles, as usual, have been controversial. His article in Vol. 2, No. 4 probably sheds a good deal of light on some aspects of the investigation. Perhaps the reactions of a Menzel or a Moore are a kind of exorcising of the terrors of the dark--the reaction to strange and unexplained events, whether to deny them feverishly or to make a religion out of them as do the contactees and the spiritualists. (A classic example is Warminster, where baffling and frightening events are "rationalized" into the doings of benevolent space brothers. The apparent willingness of investigators such as Cleary-Baker to half accept these "rationalizations" is perhaps indicative of the same subconscious fear.)

In a different sense ufology has acted as an anti-scientific and anti-rational focus, as witness the vast numbers of cranks, bigots, racists, fundamentalists, spiritualists, 'Peter Simples', reactionaries, theosophists, occultists, hippies and general weirdies it has attracted. I feel that the future would be brighter if we could separate those genuinely and deeply interested in the problem--ranging in views from Alan Sharp to John Keel--from the ranks of vague 'believers'.

As a dedicated armchair ufologist I would like to reply to Dr Cleary-Baker by saying that there is no reason to connect armchair ufology with the excesses of some trashy little journals, most of which are produced by the skywatch and ley hunt brigade. Few of these journals have presented bizarre notions; indeed most show a total lack of ideas, bizarre or not. However, appalling though some local journals might be, they have still occasionally preserved cases of interest which otherwise would be lost.

Armchair ufology however is quite reputable, it being merely the searching through extant material for ideas, connections, etc.--an activity approved of by the very active John Keel. The armchair searching of material on ufology, parapsychology and old newspaper files might be vastly more rewarding than the skywatches on windy hills, phoney electronic gadgetry, and rambling catechisms of botched-up pseudo-science that seem to meet the approval of certain sections of the ufological establishment in this country.

Armchair ufologists who have read the latest literature are surely more use than self-styled investigators who have never read FSR and never heard of John Keel.

Yours faithfully, Peter Rogerson, 8 Braddon Avenue,
Urmston, nr MANCHESTER, M31 1UE

DOUBTS AT DIGAP

by John A. Rimmer

On the tenth of April I was privileged to lecture the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (DIGAP) at their meeting rooms in Manchester. I chose as the topic of my talk 'Subjective Aspects of the UFO Phenomena', and it took the form of comments on this subject, illustrated with articles from earlier issues of this Bulletin. This was the first occasion on which I had given a talk to a UFO group, and was therefore somewhat apprehensive about what might befall me. The content of my message will be familiar to regular readers of this Bulletin through such articles as 'The UFO as an Anti-Scientific Symbol', 'UFOs and Irish Folk Lore', 'A Critical Look at the Interplanetary Theory', as well as the alternative viewpoint put forward by Alan Sharp.

It became evident as the evening went on that there was a certain amount of hostility towards some of the ideas I was putting forward, some people still apparently equating hallucination and extreme subjective responses with mental instability. In the article 'A Personal View of the Sixties' in this Bulletin John Harney remarks on how lovingly ufologists hold onto what nebulous fragments of 'physical evidence' there are. This was apparent when I remarked that the Cloud Cigar UFO with its attendant Angel Hair could be some form of tornado or electrical storm. This, to my mind, quite reasonable suggestion produced a remarkable amount of heat, DIGAP members arguing that this was one of the main pieces of evidence for the physical reality of UFOs, so many people having seen them at once. Presumably when one has a piece of evidence like this it is hard to let it go!

One of the members related an interesting tale, which complemented my remarks on the relevance of folk-lore to our study. He told of a mining engineer, a friend of his, who had been told of, and had seen himself, curious humanoid forms in Cornish mines.

The high-spot of the evening as far as I was concerned was a revelation that was made concerning the activities of the men in black. I had remarked that MIB were mostly an American phenomenon, and that there were psychological and sociological reasons for this. "However," I added, "there have been MIB incidents in Europe and other parts of the world."

"I heard of an incident in England quite recently," said a lady member of the Group.

"Could you give me some details, as we are very interested in these incidents at MUF0B?" I asked.

"Well, I had heard from a ufologist in the South of England that men had visited a person and frightened him into closing down his magazine and giving up ufology!"

We were agog.

"Do you know who this person is?"

"Yes, someone called John Harney."

I think that at this point I fell, helpless, under the table! As soon as I had recovered my decorum I was able to reassure all present that our Editor Mr Harney had not been silenced, and was able to turn the incident to good account as an example of the way unconfirmed wild rumour can fly around without a grain of truth.

By the end of the meeting I do not think I had 'converted' anyone. Some of those present were, I thought, rather resentful of my incursion into some of their cherished dogmas, and regarded me

rather like an atheist at a Vatican Synod. Others however seemed to be interested, and perhaps encouraged to look at the topic from a slightly different viewpoint. I was encouraged when, on leaving, a member of the audience remarked, "You seem to have stunned some of our members into an unusual silence!"

One does one's best!

GREAT TRUTHS FORMING IN THE VOID?

by Arthur Shuttlewood

What one can only describe as a singularly unusual experience befell John Roseweir, national Vice-Chairman of Contact UK, and me on the night of January 18th this year, when we were at Cradle Hill, Warminster, focal centre of so many inexplicable aerial phenomena for the past five years.

Singular because it was the first UFO of this particular type ever seen in our quarter of the country. Silently, it glided into view at exactly 9.30 p.m. from the south-west and hovered for a total of twenty seconds almost due south of where we were positioned on the hill proper, by the now-familiar white metal gate.

The ellipsoid was pure gold in colour and suspended at a height of about fifty feet above ground level, between Cop Heap and the Warminster Downs edged by West Wilts Golf Club greens. Over the sun-disc aeroform was a silvery plume which, in spite of a fairly stiff south-east breeze, was motionless and unwavering; and from the bottom portion of the UFO a dark triangle or pyramid shape could clearly be seen at a later phase. Both observers estimated the 'craft' to be no more than a mile distant from the viewing base, the ellipsoid probably of 30 feet overall dimension. (See Fig.3 on front page.)

Immediately prior to this we were quietly discussing megalithic crosses and monoliths, also the recurrence of the figures '3' and '9' in progressive stages of UFO sightings and research, significance of the Great Pyramid at Gizeh, recent 'haywire' and inconsistent scientific instrument readings of what power lies beneath the area of the Sphinx, etc., difficult to compute with any degree of finality.

In my last book I mentioned a special 'visitor' on the morning of August 27th of 1967. Then, on exactly the same date in 1969, we had a definite UFO landing at Warminster with 13 witnesses present--far more convincing than one poor soul on his own. Well known researcher Norman Oliver gave us unexpected backing in this true story, which the cynics--as usual, bless them--were still inclined to deride as 'far too fantastic to credit.'

He affirmed, publicly, that "An interesting point is that there were several people camping out on The Copse with scientific equipment, including a geiger counter, who asked to be shown the spot where the figure appeared. Whilst the geiger counter worked normally elsewhere, the reverse of what might perhaps have been expected occurred at the spot where the figure had been seen; the geiger counter 'packed up' and registered nothing! This was tested several times to make sure the counter itself was not at fault, but with the same result."

I mention this corroboration, because it was a complete surprise to Warminster 'regulars' unaware that other watchers were present besides the 13, who included an ex-Naval Commander's wife. However, to return to the 'pyramid' sighting saga... August 27th of 1967 and 1969 brought minor revelations -- and the digits of the month date may be of importance difficult to assess at present... $2 + 7 = 9$. Perhaps August 27th of 1971, following the logical

sequence of a '3' in the pattern, will be especially significant.

On January 18th ($1 + 8 = 9$) at 9.30 p.m. (another '9' and '3'), the dark pyramid appendage dangling from the bottom of the UFO seemed to sidle sideways and land at a point near Cop Heap after the glowing golden craft winked brightly three times and vanished. The plume at the top dissolved simultaneously. What did it all mean? And how often we have wondered precisely that, after so many strange sightings at Cradle Hill!

On February 18th this year (again, $1 + 8 = 9$) I had to report Warminster Chamber of Commerce annual dinner locally. While there, incidentally, a guest-of-honour, printer Mr Arthur Maidsent, President of Salisbury Chamber of Commerce, confided that he and a friend recently saw a most peculiar light formation in a village near the city, telling me: "This sort of thing is not unique to Warminster, you know." (Perhaps ufologists might care to interview him one day to get the whole story?)

At 7.20 p.m. on February 18th, I went for a short stroll up Elm Hill before setting out for my reporting date. Again the 'pyramid'-carrying UFO manifested, in about the same sky region betwixt downs and Cop Heap. Once more the '3' and '9' aspect struck me. 7.20 p.m. ($7 + 2 = 9$) on the 18th. It is dangerous and negative, obviously, to think subjectively: it is alien to my job as a qualified news reporter, who always seeks the objective angle of any story.

But what does the reader think of the following, which came after much concentrated thought on this three and nine mystery that occurs with strange frequency in the UFO pattern of late? My mind, free from mundane considerations, was simply open to ideas that filter through all minds occasionally - and should be welcomed if not of egotistic volition...

First, against a dark backcloth, a silver circle appeared. Then a cross lighted up the centre. And from each end of the cross formation the figure '9' flashed with tremendous brilliance. Here in a brief illustrated form is what I saw. (See Fig. 2 on front page.) But even more vividly, as a sense of drama awoke within me and my startled eyes tried to make my brain understand something even more inexplicable than any of the genuine UFO sightings I have been privileged to witness, the pattern expanded and I became aware of the following:-

The cross became of the dimensional status of a Union Jack, with the circle filled by eight instead of the former four sections in separation. Then the number '90' began to flicker at the right, on the second line down, then at its side... Excitedly, my brain raced and came up with the rather shocking revelation that '9' must be the most significant figure perhaps in the entire Universe, not just on Earth, together with the '3' that the spiritual and scientific factions among us recognise as having importance. Here, then, is the completed pattern of the circle: (See Fig. 1 on front page.)

You will note that it is literally full, chock-a-block, of 'nines'. Add any two numbers together and the answer is always NINE. For example, 360 and 130 total 490 = 9. Or 270 with 225 = 495 = 18 = 9... Do you follow the reckoning? Try any random or deliberate additions and you cannot escape the finality of that nine... In my third and final book on UFOs, which will tell how one of the Rolling Stones pop group, Mick Taylor, came to Warminster and saw aerial wonders, how Patrick Moore and Bob Chapman fared in visual experiences of the unworldly, etc., this '9' and '3' association will be dealt with more fully.

Because man is not infallible, nor ever will be until his consciousness is voluntarily geared to the overtones of Universal Truth and the indivisibility of matters scientific and spiritual, I

dare not announce any findings too prematurely. Here are a few thoughts for open-minded readers and ufologists to mull over, however:-

Is it possible that, by this circle and its divisions and additions, we are being shown a zodiac of great antiquity in which the number of signs is eight in place of twelve?

Could this be a zodiac for the planet Earth, or some other heavenly body? The cross and the 9 together are more than symbolic, I feel intuitively, and it could be that we have established a link; and that it is in the ancient esoteric astrology which predates Babylon and Chaldea, but the question must be: Which people and where? Also - so important and vital to further ufological progress of true purpose - WHY? The '9' is virtually jumping off the paper, just as it did off the perimeter or edges of my vision at the time it manifested so weirdly.

This is the last article I shall write on UFOs. There will be no more public communiques issued by our small and dedicated team of researchers from Warminster. Thereby, harsh critics and slander, libellous comment and unfair attacks on character, will no longer be possible: for such practisers may be doing themselves immense damage by indulging in unwarranted vitriolics!

Let the sceptics make their own way in future - not have everything put on to a plate for them to dissect according to their own ego. We now officially retire from the scene, for Truth finally must be arrived at by personal and individual experience; and one cannot get that by sitting comfortably in an armchair. With onset of illness, Bob Strong has lost almost four stones in weight in less than a year.

That he is on the mend now, recuperating slowly, is because he has given up a long and physically exhausting task, sick and tired (as I am) of the carping criticisms of the minority, who bedevil and belittle the enormous importance of the sacred subject as well as upsetting us as is obviously intended. Good luck to all open-minded ufologists everywhere...The Truths will percolate, with patience. The UFO enigma may constitute a many-sided coin of the Unknown; but Truth equates them all!

WHITHER UFOLOGY? -- A Riposte

by Alan W. Sharp

One useful by-product of the multiple editorship of a periodical is the scope which it offers for internecine strife when things get a little dull! The gentle exchange of pleasantries between the Associate Editor and Science Editor of the Bulletin is a case in point which in fact serves a useful purpose because it demonstrates a frequently occurring phenomenon in the literature, namely that much apparent discord is the result of misunderstanding.

In the article "Advance or Retreat" (Vol. 2, No. 6, Nov-Dec 1969) two passages appeared, viz:-

"If...the evidence for extraterrestrial visitation disappears that will be the end as far as this commentator is concerned," and:-

"The extraterrestrial hypothesis must be staunchly adhered to as the fundamental precept."

In his counter article entitled "A Look at the Alternatives" (Vol. 3, No. 1, Jan-Feb 1970) my colleague John Rimmer disputes these conclusions and decides, quite rightly, that even in the acknowledged absence of "les extraterrestres" there are still plenty of interesting aspects (to him) of our subject which can be profitably explored.

Whether one wishes to explore these other facets in depth is

really a matter of one's personal tastes and interests.

The big landing "flap" of 1963 illustrates this point quite well, since it provided a great deal of information about not alien space vehicles, but meteorology--a subject of considerable interest to the writer in his capacity as a geologist and astronomer.(+)

Most of those mysterious and much-publicised holes in the ground--the "craters" at Charlton, Cockburnspath, etc.,--turned out to be the results of the discharge of lightning in open country, a subject about which very little was known previously and which owed its further elucidation to its appearance in the context of UFO investigation.

Equally it may be that advances in other fields, of no special interest to the writer, will come about in a somewhat similar manner.

However it does seem to him that all this is becoming too far a cry from the unidentified flying objects which, as indicated by the name of this Bulletin, are the things we are supposed to be investigating.

If they have been investigated out of existence, in any tangible sense, well and good and we must "resign ourselves to the investigation of natural and man-made phenomena and realign our thinking accordingly." If one wishes to broaden the field to include the realms of the occult and what have you there is no reason why one should not do so, whilst recognising that there are already other organisations in being to cater for such matters. The question is, are ufologists, in fact, admitting that they are dealing with fantasies and figments of the imagination--after disposing of human artefacts and natural phenomena?

It would very much appear so if I understand my colleague aright; but it seems rather ironical to jettison the E.T.H. at a time when eminent professional astronomers have been converted to the idea of a universe stuffed full of highly intelligent beings.

Proof of this highly interesting state of affairs is, of course, quite lacking.

(+ now President of the Liverpool Astronomical Society)

M e r s e y s i d e U F O B u l l e t i n

Editor John Harney, 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, WIRRAL,
Cheshire, L62 6AY Telephone: 051-327 2146

Associate Editor John A. Rimmer, 6 Norgate Street, LIVERPOOL,
L4 0RH

Science Editor Alan W. Sharp, BSc, BEng, FRAS, FGS, Dip.Ed.,
35 Radstock Road, LIVERPOOL, L6 3AU
Telephone: 051-263 5685

Letters to the editor, for publication, are very welcome.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the editors.

Printed and published by the editors